

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note that claims 1, 12 and 15-17 are being amended and claims 22 through 31 are being added.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cutting a web, the apparatus comprising:
 - (a) a mechanism for supporting a web, the web having a first edge and a second edge, the web being adapted for travel upon the mechanism;
 - (b) a frame over the web;
 - (c) at least three lasers mounted upon the frame in an array across the web from the first edge to the second edge, such that each successive laser in the array is adapted for providing a light beam upon a corresponding zone of the web, the lasers being configured for directing a beam of light upon the surface of the web to form at least one severed portion upon the web in the cross direction.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the apparatus is configured to sever the web continuously from the first edge to the second edge.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the apparatus is configured to form a plurality of severed portions upon the web in interrupted sequence, enabling creation of a perforation line in the cross direction of the web, whereby bonded portions in the perforation line are positioned between severed portions.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 in which the laser is adapted to form multiple perforation lines positioned generally parallel to each other and in the cross direction of the web, in which the perforation lines are provided at spaced intervals.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which a plurality of lasers are employed, whereby each laser acts upon only a portion of the cross directional width of the web.
6. Canceled
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the mechanism for supporting the web comprises an air foil.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the mechanism for supporting the web comprises rollers.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the mechanism supporting the web comprises a carrier fabric.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 in which the carrier fabric is capable of suspending the web at a fixed distance from the laser.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 in which the web includes a cross direction from the first edge to the second edge, whereby the laser is configured to direct the beam of light at an angle that deviates from the cross direction.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for perforating a web, the system comprising:

(a) a web conveying means adapted for supporting and conveying a web, the web having a cross direction bounded by a first edge and a second edge, the web being adapted for travel upon the surface of the web conveying means;

(b) a frame; and

(c) at least three lasers mounted upon the frame in an array across the web from the first edge to the second edge, the plurality of lasers being adapted for directing a beam of light upon the surface of the running web to form severed portions that form a perforation in the cross direction of the web, the perforation comprising severed portions and bonded portions in alternating sequence.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 in which the web is apportioned into a plurality of zones, wherein the plurality of lasers are provided in an array across the web from the first edge to the second edge, such that each successive laser in the array is adapted for providing a light beam upon a corresponding zone of the web.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 in which at least seven zones are provided upon the web.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 in which the speed of travel of the web upon the conveying means is greater than about 3,000 feet per ~~second~~minute.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 in which the speed of travel of the web upon the conveying means is greater than about 3,500 feet per ~~second~~minute.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 in which the speed of travel of the web upon the conveying means is greater than about 4,000 feet per ~~second~~minute.

18. (Original) The system of claim 12 in which the web conveying means comprises an air foil.

19. (Original) The system of claim 12 in which the web conveying means comprises rollers.

20. (Original) The system of claim 12 in which the web conveying means comprises a carrier fabric.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 in which the lasers provide light beams upon the web at an angle that deviates from the cross direction, but results in a severed portion that is oriented in the cross direction.

22. (New) An apparatus for cutting a web, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a mechanism for supporting a web, the web having a first edge and a second edge, the mechanism being adapted to convey the web at a speed greater than about 3,000 feet per minute;

(b) a frame over the web;

(c) at least three lasers mounted upon the frame in an array across the web, such that each successive laser in the array is adapted for providing a light beam upon a corresponding zone of the web, the lasers being configured for directing a beam of light upon the surface of the web to form at least one severed portion upon the web in the cross direction.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 in which the apparatus is configured to sever the web continuously from the first edge to the second edge.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 in which the apparatus is configured to form a plurality of severed portions upon the web in interrupted sequence, enabling creation of a perforation line in the cross direction of the web, whereby bonded portions in the perforation line are positioned between severed portions.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 in which the laser is adapted to form multiple perforation lines positioned generally parallel to each other and in the cross direction of the web, in which the perforation lines are provided at spaced intervals.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 in which the web includes a cross direction from the first edge to the second edge, whereby the laser is configured to direct the beam of light at an angle that deviates from the cross direction.

27. (New) A system for perforating a web, the system comprising:

(a) a web conveying means adapted for supporting and conveying a web, the web having a cross direction bounded by a first edge and a second edge, the web being adapted for travel upon the surface of the web conveying means at a speed of greater than about 3,000 feet per minute;

(b) a frame; and

(c) at least three lasers mounted upon the frame, the plurality of lasers being adapted for directing a beam of light upon the surface of the running web to form severed portions that form a perforation in the cross direction of the web, the perforation comprising severed portions and bonded portions in alternating sequence.

28. (New) The system of claim 27 in which the web conveying means comprises an air foil.

29. (New) The system of claim 27 in which the web conveying means comprises rollers.

30. (New) The system of claim 27 in which the web conveying means comprises a carrier fabric.

31. (New) The system of claim 27 in which the lasers provide light beams upon the web at an angle that deviates from the cross direction, but results in a severed portion that is oriented in the cross direction.